

## REMARKS

This amendment is responsive to the Examiner's action mailed November 10, 1999. All rejections and objections are respectfully traversed. Reconsideration is requested.

Claims 1-18 are pending.

Claims 1-18 stand rejected.

Claims 1 and 10 are independent.

Claims 1 and 10 are herein amended.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) Based on Chang et al. '979:**

The Examiner has suggested that the present claims are anticipated by Chang. Chang, however, requires a **mapping language**, SMDL, to provide a user readable text version of the database, as disclosed at col. 5, lines 29-65 and recited at columns 33-36. The present invention, on the contrary, employs a **runtime engine** which uses an **interface object** to provide runtime SQL access to a database without an intermediate user modifiable mapping language, as described in the specification at page 3, lines 13-23 and also at page 10, line 26-page 11, line 18. Claims 1 and 10 have been herein amended to recite a **runtime engine which invokes an interface object** to further clarify the invention as defined by the present claims.

Further, Chang discloses a system which utilizes this SDML language to define relationships between attributes and tables, as disclosed at col. 23, lines 32-60. The present invention, on the contrary, discloses a system and method employing persistent operations on objects corresponding to classes, as described at page 10, lines 13-25. Accordingly, claims 1 and 10 have been

herein amended to recite an **object corresponding to a class**, to further clarify the present invention.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 101:**

The Examiner has further rejected claims 10-18 as being non-statutory. Claim 10 has been herein amended to recite that the computer program is **fixed on a computer-readable medium and adapted to operate on a computer**. Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 10 now pertains to patentable subject matter according to 35 U.S.C. 101. MPEP 2106.

As the remaining claims depend either directly or indirectly from claims 1 and 10, which by the foregoing are deemed allowable, it is respectfully submitted that all claims in the case are now allowable and such allowance is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter which would expedite allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure